



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

539 236

Applicant's or agent's file reference PH-1703-PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2002/013194	International filing date (day/month/year) 17 December 2002 (17.12.2002)	Priority date (day/month/year)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06K 7/10		
Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36. 2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet. <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>4</u> sheets.</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. This report contains indications relating to the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 May 2003 (09.05.2003)	Date of completion of this report 02 February 2004 (02.02.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:^{*}

- the international application as originally filed
- the description:

pages _____ 1-21 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the claims:

pages _____ 14 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____ 1-5, 12, 13, 15-24 _____, filed with the letter of 14 October 2003 (14.10.2003)

- the drawings:

pages _____ 1-23 _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

- the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____ _____, as originally filed
 pages _____ _____, filed with the demand
 pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
 the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
 the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
 filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
 furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
 The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
 The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
 the claims, Nos. _____ 6-11 _____
 the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/JP 02/13194
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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>1-5, 12-24</u>	YES
	Claims	<u> </u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>12-21, 23</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>1-5, 22, 24</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>1-5, 12-24</u>	YES
	Claims	<u> </u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 9-22437 A (Fujitsu Ltd.), 21 January 1997, entire text; all drawings (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 5-19694 A (Omniplanar, Inc.), 29 January 1993, entire text; all drawings & EP 484132 A3 & DE 69131394 C & EP 484132 A2 & US 5153418 A & US 5189292 A & US 5223701 A

Document 3: JP 57-8874 A (R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., US), 18 January 1982, entire text; all drawings & AU 6557780 A & PT 72613 A & DK 97281 A & EP 36951 A1 & ES 499031 A & US 4323772 A & CA 1145049 A

Document 4: JP 63-115282 A (Nippon Denso Co., Ltd.), 19 May 1988, entire text; all drawings, (Family: none)

Document 5: JP 2002-176509 A (Tohoku Ricoh K.K.), 21 June 2002, entire text; all drawings (Family: none)

Claims 1-4

Document 1 discloses the feature of performing labelling and calculating the connected portions of an image.

Document 2 discloses the use of a histogram.

It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to apply the feature disclosed in document 2 to the feature disclosed in document 1 in order to reduce the misreading of data.

Claim 5

Document 1 discloses the feature of performing labelling and calculating the connected portions of an image.

Document 2 discloses the use of a histogram.

Document 3 discloses the use of the black pixel count.

Document 4 discloses the use of the number of bars.

It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to apply the features disclosed in documents 2-4 to the feature disclosed in document 1 in order to reduce the misreading of data.

Claims 12-14 and 23

The feature wherein the edge portions of an inputted image is identified and histogram conversion is only carried out for the brightness of said edge portions of the inputted image is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report.

Moreover, it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 15-21

The feature wherein the relative values of the widths of the bars are identified as thresholds as a condition for adjacent bars in a barcode is not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the international search report.

Moreover, it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art.

Claims 22-24

Document 1 discloses the feature of performing labelling and calculating the connected portions of an image.

Document 2 discloses the use of a histogram.

Document 3 discloses the use of the black pixel count.

Document 4 discloses the use of the number of bars.

Document 5 discloses the use of a mobile phone with a built-in camera to recognise barcode data.

It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art to apply the features disclosed in documents 2-5 to the feature disclosed in document 1 in order to reduce the misreading of data.